

Manti-La Sal National Forest

Moab-Monticello Ranger District

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 8/11/2011

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Lightning starts fire in Sally's Hollow

Lightning started a wildfire in the Sally's Hollow on the east side of the La Sal Mountains, Thursday, August 4 which has burned 67 acres to date. The fire, which is about five miles north of Buckeye Reservoir, is being managed by the Forest Service to improve timber stand conditions and reduce fuels.

The fire is burning in an area of ponderosa pine where previous management activities have been limited. Because ponderosa pine is a fire tolerant species, low- intensity fire can benefit the health of the ecosystem and may prevent catastrophic, stand-replacing crown fires.

"The Sally's Hollow Fire is a very low intensity fire and is doing exactly what we want it to," said Mike Diem, Moab-Monticello District Ranger.

Personnel on the ground are taking actions where needed to assure that the fire stays within a specified location. Currently there are approximately 45 fire fighters assisting in the management of the fire.

"It is important to recognize that the fire is actively managed to meet multiple objectives," explained Diem. "Fire managers will review the fire's progress and weather forecasts to determine if the objectives are being met, or if a different course of action is required."

Smoke may be visible from Gateway, Co and the east side of the La Sals depending on weather conditions and fire behavior. Fire activity and smoke are generally greatest during the afternoons, when temperatures are highest and humidity is lowest.

Although these fires are often a long duration event, it is not the intent of the Moab Ranger District to allow this fire to burn over a long duration.

Fire managers would like to remind everyone to be especially careful and fire conscious while recreating this summer.

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